

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 01404 280535Z

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1404

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: VIEWS OF CARDINAL SIN ON CURRENT SITUATION

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON JANUARY 24, JAIME CARDINAL SIN HAD THESE COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE CURRENT PHILIPPINE SCENE:

2. HE IS ENCOURAGING OPPOSITION FIGURES TO RUN IN UPCOMING BATASANG PAMBANSA ELECTION, EVEN IF IT MEANS RUNNING UNDER MARCOS' BANNER. HE POINTED OUT PARTY LINES ARE NEVER VERY STRICT IN PHILIPPINES AND "THEY CAN BE THEIR OWN MEN ONCE THEY ARE ELECTED." HE BELIEVES MARCOS WILL AGREE TO OPPOSITION CANDIDATES AND THAT HE WILL TRY TO RUN ELECTION FAIRLY. CARDINAL IMPLIED MARCOS, THROUGH SELECTION OF CANDIDATES AND INFLUENCE ON VOTING RULES HAD OTHER WAYS TO INSURE THIS CONTINUED CONTROL.

3. CARDINAL SAID CREATION OF INTERIM LEGISLATURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE. IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO PRESIDENT MARCOS TODAY, POSSIBILITY IS REAL THAT MILITARY JUNTA WOULD TAKE OVER. PRESIDENT HAS TOLD CARDINAL THAT THERE ARE, IN PALACE, INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCCESSION IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 01404 280535Z

CASE OF SUCH EMERGENCY, BUT CARDINAL DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED ONCE MARCOS WAS GONE. EVEN INTERIM LEGISLATURE WILL GIVE BODY OF CIVIL AUTHORITY WHICH CAN MANAGE SUCCESSION IN EVENT OF PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

4. CARDINAL, IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, SAID IT IS

LIKELY AQUINO WILL BE RELEASED SOON. POSSIBILITY EVEN
EXISTS THAT AQUINO MIGHT JOIN MARCOS IN GOVERNMENT. SUCH
EVENTS ARE NOT IMPOSSIBLE IN PHILIPPINE SOCIETY. IF HE
IS RELEASED, AQUINO WILL DEFINITELY STAY IN COUNTRY.
MARCOS HAS TOLD CARDINAL THAT AQUINO WOULD DO MORE HARM

TO
X HIM IN UNITED STATES THAN AT HOME AND THAT, IF RELEASED,
AQUINO WILL STAY IN PHILIPPINES.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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